

October

Magic Lantern Society
US and Canada

NEWS 2015



"EARTH'S EYE"

Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

AN ONLINE EXHIBITION OF WALDEN POND IMAGES.

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Magic Lantern New Orleans Convention Oct. 6-9, 2016

Mark your calendars now, for the New Orleans, LA Convention, to be held Oct. 6-9, 2016. This is a opportunity you'll not want to miss! We are requesting presenters for 20-30 minute time allocations. Potential presenters should send their information to Steve Barnes (thesteve4@yahoo.com). All types of programs are being sought, but we hope to have at least some that would relate to the area, topics like: wars, river life, plantations, music or food.

The hotel has just let us know that in addition to their normal rooms, they have completed some one room suites, containing a small kitchen and living room. They have also renovated the 16th floor for our Creole banquet (buffet style, all you can eat). They can meet any dietary needs, though, if informed ahead of time. The hotel will also offer their convention rate for several days both prior to and after the convention. We are still working on the best room rates, so we are not sure what that price is yet.

You will want to plan to spend some extra time in the area, to take in the culture and see the sights. To start, I am listing most of the Plantations, which offer tours and are located within 1 – 1 ½ hours from New Orleans. These



include, Houmas House Plantation (which has hands on displays); Destrehan Plantation (closest to New Orleans and built about 1800); Laura Plantation (a Creole style plantation with the most specific history to the actual house—a “Top Travel Attraction” where Br’er Rabbit was written); Oak Alley (many films have been shot there but this is a rather commercial tour); Ormond Plantation (very close to Destrehan); San Francisco Plantation (very ornate); St Joseph Plantation (a creole sugar plantation between Whitney & Laura); Whitney Plantation (relating “The story of Slavery” and containing the oldest &/or best preserved “Creole” detached kitchen, house, and barn, plus decorative wall paintings. This is probably the longest tour).

I will send additional updates with other “to do” ideas every several months. These will include area museums, tours, restaurants, architecture, etc. So put the convention on your calendar. You won’t want miss anything!

Steve Barnes
thesteve4@yahoo.com
2016 Convention Chair

Magic Lantern Exhibition

From Tom Rall



Jack and Beverly Wilgus, who presented the camera obscura at our DC convention, are among the lecturers!

<http://www.smu.edu/Meadows/NewsAndEvents/News/2015/150904-AtoZExhibit>

Correction

Last month under



From Larry Rakow

Corrected spelling



From Roger Holly

Magic Lantern Paintbox

Dear Sirs, I have an antique magic lantern paintbox with 9 tubes of colour and a palette.

Inside it has an impressed label for Barnard & son of London , 19 Berners street.

I would like to sell it and i wonder if you are interested in buying it ? I could send more details and photos if necessary.

Regards, Roger Holly
roger_holly@hotmail.com

Hello Roger

It is the kind of peripheral that many magic lantern collectors would be interested in. Maybe we could advertise it in our monthly e-publication, which goes to all our members. If that is OK with you, could you send a picture of two of what you have, and an idea of about how much you hope to get for it? Also your approximate location would help from the point of view of shipping costs.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans
Secretary-treasurer
The Magic Lantern Society of US and Canada

FOR SALE



British Phantasmagoria

From Erkki Huhtamo

Dear David,

I was just reading the Bakken enquiry from the newsletter. This is a picture of my British Phantasmagoria, as close to the Philipsthal lantern as anyone can find, and the only complete survivor. Lester Smith has an incomplete one, and the Turin Film Museum a modified one...

All the best,

Erkki



Biunial Magic Lantern

From Nancy Hill

nancyhill@earthlink.net

We have a biunial magic lantern that was given to us about 20 years ago, and we've never found a photo or drawing of anything quite like it. There is a paper label on the lantern that says Stereopticons and Slides, Chas. A. Prescott, Fitchburg, Mass. It is in an oak carrying case with a leather handle on top. It has a cloth insulated power cord and wooden slide holders. The lens has 2.5/16" stamped on the side. There's no wear on the case or the lantern. Bellows are perfect. Lenses and lens covers are perfect.

Can you direct us to a possible source to learn more about this interesting piece?

From David Evans

Hello Nancy

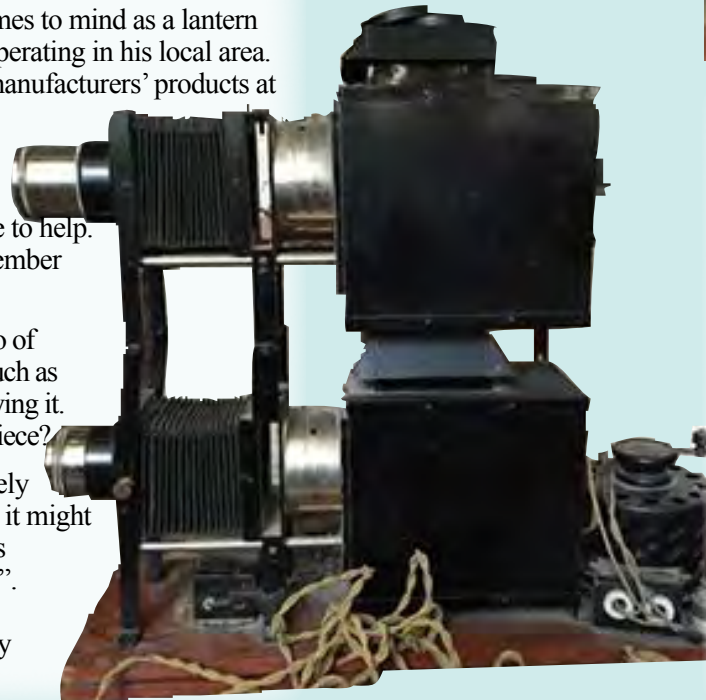
Charles Prescott is not a name that immediately comes to mind as a lantern manufacturer, though he may well have been one operating in his local area. He may also perhaps have been a retailer of other manufacturers' products at the time.

If we put a piece about your lantern in our monthly e-publication with a request for more information, it may well be that one of our members may be able to help. It would probably be the October issue, as the September edition is nearly complete.

If you feel that would be suitable, a photograph or two of the lantern would be helpful, along with any details such as names on lens mounts etc would also assist in identifying it. May we include your e-mail address along with the piece?

In passing, one must just add that 2 5/16" is extremely short for a focal length of an objective lens - maybe it might be its diameter? Projection lenses for magic lanterns generally have focal lengths in the region of 8" - 12".

Thank you for contacting the Magic Lantern Society of US and Canada.



Hello Nancy

A fine lantern indeed! I think you should re-do the electrics before using it though.

I feel sure that Prescott was the supplier rather than the maker, and if we put one or two pictures in our e-pub I am confident that someone will be able to identify the maker from the style.

I think the numbers on the lens probably say 15" - 16", which would be quite a long focal length, but not an improbable one. There is some corrosion or discolouration around the first of the numbers which makes it hard to read.

Thank you for sending the pictures.



Set of Astronomical Lantern Slides

Background and Description:

As a high school senior at Manhattan College High School in Riverdale New York in 1962 I was given a set of astronomical lantern slides by my physics teacher in recognition of my grades in science and my interest in amateur astronomy. The school was the preparatory school for Manhattan College which I later attended as a chemistry major. The teacher was a member of the Society of the Christian Brothers of St. John the Baptist de La Salle. This order of men established and ran the high school and college as well as other high schools and colleges (now universities) in the United States. The order originated in France. The slides were apparently brought from France as the embossed stamp on four of the slides indicate they originated in Paris and the original documentation is in French. See photographs. At my stage of life I am simplifying and neither of my daughters share my interest in these slides. The set, therefore, needs a good home with someone who has the enthusiasm for and interest in them.



Except for the ninth slide, each slide is hand numbered in ink on the left edge. From its appearance the ninth slide may have been repaired. The eighth slide requires repair and has been that way since I received the set. All other slides operate correctly.

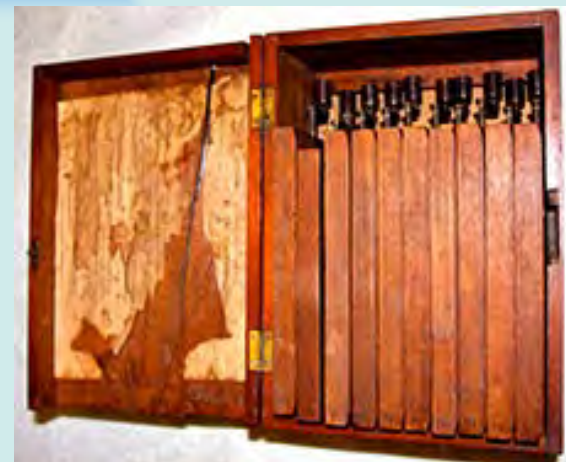


The box - the crack has been there since I was given the set in 1962



What was/is left of the paper inside the lid is in French and identifies and describes each of the slides.

The set of ten slides come in the original box. On the inside top of the box lid is a partially legible description in French of each of the slides. Except for the ninth slide each slide is numbered in handwritten ink on the top left edge. The workings of the ninth slide are original to the set but the slide may have been repaired at some point in the past



before they came into my possession. Except for the eighth slide each slide operates properly. The eighth slide needs repair and has been in that condition since I received the set in 1962. Four of the ten slides bear an embossed stamp that says "J. DUBOSCO R. ODEON PARIS" where the "R." represents "Rue". In the center of the stamp there is what appears to be a date of establishment in the 1700s. The photos show all but the eighth slide with a brief description of each.

I would like to list the set at \$1,100 US.

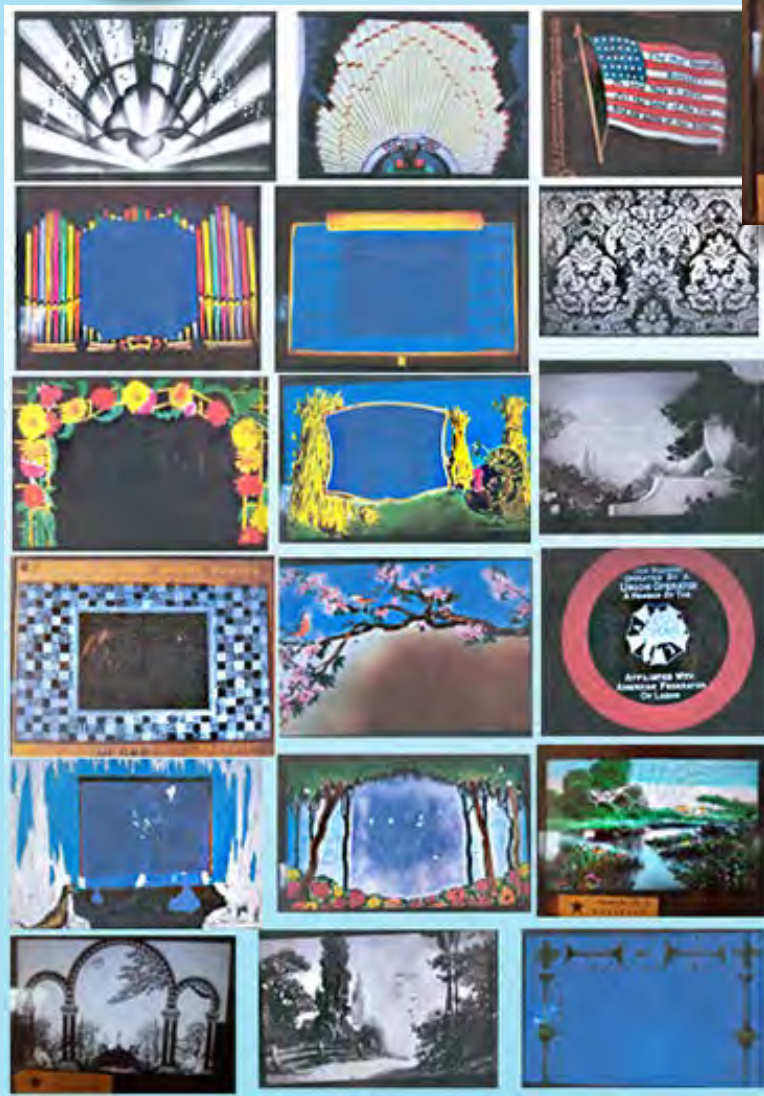
Most sincerely,

Daniel C. Pantaleo

email: 726berk@comcast.net



**Approximately 24 slides,
some Maurice Workstel**



Contact:
Richard Ellers
426 Central Parkway
Warren, OH 44483
Geerichard@aol.com



<http://www.casino.org/news/union-barred-from-beaming-messages-to-walls-of-carl-icahn-casinos>

Local union was barred by judge from using a light projector to show messages on walls of casinos in

Atlantic City-I gather there are changes of ownership going on, with new owners wanting concessions from the union. At least one of the casinos is already shut.

Of course this projection of messages onto buildings is not a new thing, as MLS members know.

Suzanne Wray
NYC



See Nov 2011
E-pub for more
Outdoor
projection

Magic Lantern Element

From Francesca Jones

francescajones@hotmail.co.uk

Hi there,

I am contacting you on behalf of my friend, who has an old magic lantern and hundreds of glass slides, which belonged to his grandfather. At one stage, it looks as though the lantern would have had a gas powered lighting element. At the moment it is just an empty shell with the lens at the front. Is there a way of viewing the slides with perhaps a modern attachment for the original lantern or a modern device?

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you,

Francesca

From David Evans

Hi Francesca

It is quite possible that the lantern had a gas jet illuminant. There were various types available then, including oxy-hydrogen lime light, acetylene and regular house gas.

Is there also a lens inside the lantern housing, just in front of where the lamp was? This is the condenser lens and concentrates the light on the slide. The one at the front in the moveable tube is the objective or projection lens.

If you have the condenser lens as well, it would be quite straight forward to fit a modern electric lamp. Many people these days are fitting LED lights, of the kind used in car headlights. You can also use a quartz-halogen type with a built-in reflector. These are sometimes used in domestic light fittings

and are quite cheap to buy. You can get a suitable holder and if you get a 230 volt type (I see you are in UK) you wouldn't need a transformer.

Do let me know how you get on!

Thanks for contacting the Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada.

Hi David,

Many thanks for the email and advice. I will check about the lenses next time I see Gerald. This has been of great help! I'll be in touch with further updates,

All the best,
Francesca

Exhibition of Hand Colored Lantern Slides of Portland Gardens

from ca. 1920 – 1935



<http://newspacephoto.org/uneearthed-hand-colored-slides-of-early-twentieth-century-portland-gardens-from-the-oregon-historical-society/>

All slides were then colored by hand, taking great pains to accurately record the color palette of each garden or plant subject. These slides embody the ways in which archival collections of this kind function over time—what we learn from them about our past and the ways in which they can reflect on our present. In addition to the public programs (listed below) the exhibition will include prints of select images, as well as the display of the slides themselves.



Hi!

While going through boxes of my grandparents estate, we have discovered two slides from the Ernst Plank company - one depicting a winter scene, and one depicting possibly a group of traveling performers.

Are these of any particular value and/or is there a resource where I could research them? Or is there a group that would appreciate them for conservation efforts?

Thanks for your help -

-Torrey



From David Evans

Hi Torrey

It has to be said that most Ernst Plank slides do not have much commercial value since most were produced in huge numbers at the time, but it could be that one or two of our members could be looking out for exactly what you have. It may be worthwhile for us to include details in our next monthly e-publication (October) which goes to all our members. If you could let us have pictures of them and the size (length, width) that would be useful, as Plank (and other similar makers) produced slides in several different formats.

Thank you for contacting the Magic Lantern Society of US and Canada.

About Ernst Plank slides

From: Torrey Lewis

torreylewis23@gmail.com

I used centimeters just because they measured out exactly in centimeters. We would love to “rehome” them with a collector, and are happy just to accept offers.

For shipping estimates, we are in Chicago.

Thanks again!

-Torrey



Great images! I especially like the parade one! For American readers, the size is approximately 8 1/2” x 2 3/4”.

Do you have a feeling for how much you would want for them, or should it just be left as ‘Offers’? Where are you located, for shipping purposes?

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer

MOVIES

Review: In ‘A Trick of the Light,’ the German Answer to the Lumière Brothers

From Suzanne Wray

NY Times had a review of this 1995 movie, which will be shown in NYC. Note mention of magic lantern slides in next-to-last paragraph.

Mr. Wenders and his crew, modern equipment in place — booms and lights and film cameras — interview Lucie, and we see her treasures: the flipbooks that she says made her father more money than his movies; rolls of decayed film; the magic-lantern slides he painted. And we ride through 1995 Berlin, a city of cranes and construction and nonancient ruins that seems a slightly sad, distant relation of the black-and-white city of this movie’s film within a film.

An unforced melancholy hangs over “A Trick of the Light,” with its appreciation of cinema’s first days and the try-try-again spirit of its pioneers. Twenty years on, the melancholy tugs harder, as the technology celebrated here — film, running through a camera or flickering on a makeshift screen — is itself becoming an artifact of the past.

A Trick of the Light Opens on Friday

Directed by Wim Wenders

In German, with English subtitles

1 hour 16 minutes; not rated

A version of this review appears in print on September 18, 2015, on page C9 of the New York edition with the headline: Review: In ‘A Trick of the Light,’ the German Answer to the Lumière Brothers.

Auction



Introduction

The following collection was donated to the Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada with the sole provision that they go to a collector "that will value and preserve them". The Society is offering the collection for sale in a Silent Auction with all proceeds going to the Society. In keeping with the Donor's wishes, the Society requests those interested in bidding intend to preserve these items as part of their collection and not break up the collection for re-sale.



Donor

Comments:

"I know nothing about the history of the magic lanterns. They were stored in a large wooden box in the attic of my family's home in Lunenburg, MA. The house had been owned by my grandparents since before 1900 and I know they were in the attic for at least 50 years. If I had to guess, I'd guess

they were left in the house by a prior tenant, an iconoclastic fellow, a spiritualist and, I believe, inventor named Woodruff."

"The Magic Lanterns were stored in a custom made wooden box 30 inches long, 22 inches wide and 20 inches high which I did not ship, due to its weight. The box is in reasonably good shape. I would be happy to ship it to you or a future owner if you think it would be useful."

Note: The box is not part of this sale offer; the winner of this auction may contact the Donor directly if interested in the box.



continued next page

Auction

Condition of the Collection

In general the items are dusty/dirty and metal parts have varying degrees of corrosion as indicated in the photos. Except as noted below, no attempt has been made to clean or restore the items.

The collection consists of the following items:

(2) Matching magic lanterns. Wood front and base, remainder metal, with removable chimneys. Partially rusted. No markings of any kind as to manufacturer. No signs that there ever was a rear door of any type. Four inch condensing lenses are extremely dirty but not cracked. Slide holder for 4x7 slides is permanently attached. Slide holder pressure plate has two small internal leaf springs to hold slides in place; there are no adjusting screws. Housing for objective lens shows repairs (soldering) and is currently loose, one is close to coming off the body of the lantern.

(2) Objective lenses. No markings of any kind as to manufacturer. One has been partially cleaned although some debris remains on the outer lens; focus mechanism is operational but somewhat loose. The second objective lens has not been cleaned and focusing gear is frozen. The objective lenses are permanently attached to steel extension tubes; they are not of equal focal length. This seems at odds with the assumption that the two lanterns would have been used as a pair



for dissolving views. There are two additional steel extension tubes of different lengths, with no lens. It appears with the correct arrangement of extension tubes equal focal lengths can be achieved, but this has not been confirmed. The objective lens with the shortest extension tube was partially cleaned and using an incandescent lantern light source produced an image approximately 10 feet in diameter at 34 foot distance, about the shortest distance at which it would focus.

(2) Identical "Hall's Improved Oxy-Calcium Burners". On one the printed name "Thos Hall, Boston" is visible. Alcohol-oxygen limelight illuminates. See pages from Halls' catalog for description. One with weighted metal base; one with wood base.

(2) Identical Oxygen-hydrogen limelights on wood bases. No markings of any kind as to manufacturer. Gearing and gas cocks not functional but may be if disassembled and cleaned.



continued next page

Auction



(1) T.H. McAllister Oxygen safety bottle, glass, with brass top and connections for tubing. See illustrations from an 1887 McAllister Catalog for typical use.

(1) T.H. McAllister Hydrogen safety bottle, glass, with brass top and connections for tubing. Label partially obscured by "H" label. See illustrations from an 1887 McAllister Catalog for typical use.

(1) Oxygen retort, metal. Screw top currently not removable. See illustrations from an 1887 McAllister Catalog for typical use.

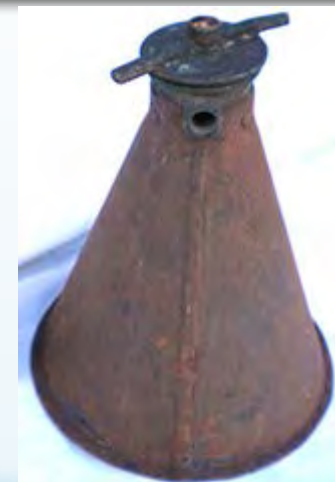
(1) Gas burner, presumably for the oxygen retort. Cast burner reads "DENTAL MFG CO BUFFELO NY."

(1) Lot, tubing, hard, broken into brittle fragments.

(1) Oxygen-hydrogen dissolving gas cock. Handle is operational. No identifying marks. One intake connection is broken off and missing.

(1) Oxygen-hydrogen dissolving gas cock with dual gas bypass. Handle and by-pass gas cocks are frozen and no attempt has been made to make it operational. No identifying marks.

(1) Mason jar with lid/soldered tubing for gas connections. Jar reads "Mason's Patent Nov 30th 1858" with marks on the bottom as shown in the photographs.



continued next page

Auction



Bidding Procedures and Conditions of the Sale

Sale will be by Silent Auction with bids received by USPS mail or email until 5:00 PM, PST, Friday, November 6, 2015. Bids will be opened and the highest bid received over the Reserve will be the winner. If no offers are received at or above the Reserve, the auction is ended and the lot will not be sold.

Reserve: \$ 500.00 US.

Questions may be sent via USPS mail or email until 5:00 PM PDT, Friday, October 23, 2015. One Addendum will be issued via email to the MLS of US and Canada e-pub mailing list with questions submitted and answers.

Bids and questions are to be submitted to:

Email: president@magiclanternsociety.org

USPS Mail:
Ron Easterday
MLS of US and Canada
1380 Lena PL NE
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Bidders are advised to review the photographs to understand the items and their condition. The collection is to sold "as is."

Upon request native electronic files of the photos posted in this e-pub will be sent, should a bidder wish to examine the photos in more detail. No additional photos will be provided to bidders except in response to questions as noted above.

The buyer is advised the items could have residue of potentially hazardous materials and should take

necessary precautions when handling/cleaning the items.

All items came from one collection; they are offered as one lot. Please, no requests for sale of individual items.

Note that the Society is not a registered 501c3 non-profit institution; no portion of the purchase price may be used as a tax deduction.

Payment is due in US funds, payable to the "MLS of US and Canada". If PayPal is used for payment, the buyer shall pay all PayPal fees for fund transfers. The bid amount is to be the net proceed received by the Society.

Shipping: Buyer is responsible for all shipping costs and insurance costs, if insurance is desired. Shipping costs are dependent upon the shipping method mutually agreed upon between the buyer and the MLS of US and Canada. Shipping costs are in addition to the bid price. The collection is located in Washington State, USA. The buyer should expect a shipping weight of 75 pounds minimum for the lot. There will be no cost for packing materials or handling. The lot will not be shipped until payment is received.